

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A butterfly valve comprising a integrally formed valve housing having a substantially cylindrical flow passage formed therein, a disc-shaped valve element arranged in said flow passage so as to be rotatable therein, a stem extending from said valve element to the outside of said valve housing and supported by said valve housing so as to be rotatable, and an operating unit for rotating said stem, said butterfly valve adapted so that said flow passage is opened and closed by rotating said stem to thereby rotate said valve element in said flow passage,

wherein said butterfly valve further comprises a top flange for mounting said operating unit thereon by connecting bolts, which is formed integrally with said valve housing, said top flange formed with a plurality of cutouts extending from the outer peripheral edge of said top flange toward the center thereof so that said connecting bolts can be moved in said plurality of cutouts in a radial direction of said top flange.

2. (Previously Amended) The butterfly valve according to claim 1, further comprising an annular seat ring extending in a circumferential direction of said flow passage and fitted between the inner peripheral surface of said flow passage and the outer peripheral edge of said valve element, wherein said stem extends through said seat ring, said seat ring including a body and flanges formed at both axial ends of the body, said seat ring formed so that the outer periphery of said body thereof has an elliptical shape having a long axis extending along an axis of said stem and so that the inner periphery of the body thereof has a circular shape.

3. (Previously Amended) The butterfly valve according to claim 1, wherein a groove for a spacer for preventing said stem from coming off to be fitted therein is formed on the upper surface of said top flange.

4. (Previously Amended) The butterfly valve according to claim 2, wherein a groove for a spacer for preventing said stem from coming off to be fitted therein is formed on the upper surface of said top flange.

5. (New) The butterfly valve according to claim 1, wherein said drive operating mounted on said top flange comprises a manual operating unit.

6. (New) The butterfly valve according to claim 5, wherein said manual operating unit comprises a lever-type operating unit or a gear-type operating unit.

7. (New) The butterfly valve according to claim 1, wherein said operating unit mounted on said top flange comprises an automatic operating unit using an actuator.